tax evasion in these areas. Further, Government is taking all necessary measures under the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder. The marble consignments are being examined on first check basis so that the actual quantity can be measured and evaluated with regard to classification and exemption notification to plug any possible evasion of duty. Stiff fines and penalties are also imposed on mis-declaration to discourage evasion.

Deactivation of PAN cards

3207. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over a million Permanent Account Numbers of the estimated 43 million issued may soon be deactivated on account of the revelation that individuals have received more than one number;

(b) whether Government officials have identified the dpulicate PAN cards issued; and

(c) if so, the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income-tax Department has decided to de-activate the duplicate PANs held by persons.

(b) The Department has identified the likely duplicate PANs through an automated process.

(c) The likely duplicate PANs have been communicated to the jurisdictional Assessing Officers who have been asked to ascertain from the persons holding such PAN. Subsequently, on confirmation, the duplicate PANs will be de-activated and data linked to the main PAN.

Circulation of black money

3208. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any report from any circle, about the amount of black money on circulation in Indian markets at present;

(b) if so, the amount of black money at present in markets;